

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF 1ST SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER COFFIN

HON. TOM MALINOWSKI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 1st Sergeant Christopher Coffin, who tragically lost his life serving his country during Operation Iraq Freedom.

1st Sergeant Chris Coffin was assigned to the 352nd Civil Affairs Battalion when the vehicle he was traveling in was forced off the road by insurgents on July 1, 2003. He died that day protecting a convoy that had travelled from Kuwait to Baghdad.

Sgt. Coffin was born in Branchburg, New Jersey in 1951 and spent most of his childhood there. In 1978, while attending Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, he met his wife, Betsy. The two of them shared a love for the outdoors, and would frequently travel together to ski the Rocky Mountains.

Chris was also a National Park Ranger, serving at Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania and at Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. At Mount Rainier, he was a climbing ranger and was responsible for saving the lives of many injured or trapped visitors. He took such pride in the daily raising and lowering of our nation's flag at the Paradise Ranger Station that his friends, even to this day, remember the huge smile beaming on Chris' face as he walked to the flagpole.

Chris was a loving husband, a proud serviceman who always took care of his soldiers, a National Park Ranger who led search and rescue missions to save the lives of park visitors, and a friend to everyone who was fortunate to have met him.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the life of 1st Sergeant Christopher Coffin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 281 On Agreeing to the Amendment, I am mistakenly recorded as a NAY.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 281. I oppose the transfer of military equipment to local law enforcement departments.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I'm grateful for the opportunity to ac-

knowledge October 10th as Taiwan's 110th National Day, greatly appreciated as Double Ten Day. This year is special to me as the 40th birthday of my son, Julian Dusenbury Wilson.

Taiwan serves as a beacon of freedom and an indispensable strategic partner of the United States in the Indo-Pacific, and the special people-to-people relationships further enrich our lives every day. A few examples of these rewarding ties include:

Trade in U.S. goods and services with Taiwan was nearly \$104 billion in 2019.

Trade and investment with Taiwan support over 373,000 American jobs.

Taiwan is the seventh largest source of international students in the U.S., and

Taiwan is my state of South Carolina's tenth largest export market with billion-dollar investments in South Carolina industry creating jobs.

My lifelong appreciation of the people of Chinese heritage was inspired by my father, 1st Lt. Hugh deV. Wilson, U.S. Army Air Corps, 14th Air Force, with the Flying Tigers. He developed an affection for the people of China while serving to protect the citizens of Chengdu, Xi'an, and Kunming in 1944.

I am pleased that the United States and Taiwan remain close allies, and I would like to again wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMVETS POST 114

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize AMVETS Post 114 of Elk Rapids, Michigan, for its 75 years of service to Veterans, their families, and their local community. Through their tireless work, Post 114 has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

As soldiers returned home from the battlefields of World War II, many recognized the need for a nationwide group advocating on behalf of our Veterans—in response, American Veterans (AMVETS) of World War II was founded on December 10, 1944. Shortly after, President Harry Truman and Congress officially chartered AMVETS in 1947. Throughout its 75 years of service, AMVETS Post 114 have worked tirelessly to support and advocate for meaningful policies on behalf of local servicemembers, Veterans, and their families. From scholarships for local students to organizing Military Funeral Honors, the efforts of Post 114 have assisted thousands of Michigan Veterans and ensured the people of Elk Rapids and Northern Michigan honor the service and sacrifice of our Veterans.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize AMVETS Post 114 for decades of successful support for the Veterans of Northern Michigan. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing

the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

THANKING MR. KEVIN HARRIS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, on his retirement in September 2021, I rise today to thank Kevin Harris for over 37 years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives as a distinguished wood finisher.

Kevin Harris first came to the Capitol as a 15-year-old to work on the grounds crew with the Architect of the Capitol on the Senate side. He was lucky enough to have an aunt who worked for the then Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, who later hired him on the House side. He started working with the House restaurant system in 1984, which was eventually contracted out. He was able to secure a position with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Labor Room, now known as CAO, Office of Logistics & Support. Kevin worked for the logistics department for three years, where he remembers being mentored by Bobby Small, Lew Maiden and Steve Janifer, who showed him the ropes.

Later, it was determined that since he had gone to trade school, Kevin would be a good addition to the finishing shop and he made the move when a position opened. Back then, the finishing shop not only finished the furniture but also moved the furniture between offices. Some of his most memorable bosses were Mr. Kelleher, who hired him into the shop, Walter "Teenie" Woodburn and Robert Lee.

One his most memorable pieces was a special gold leafing project he completed with the staff on a bookcase for Representative William Clay. He had learned this technique through special training on this intricate skill. Kevin recalls a table he finished for Speaker Tip O'Neill, a very special stripping technique using the "old style" to strip down the finish. The Speaker was most appreciative. Kevin was also among the staff who refurbished the entire House floor, stripping the chairs and seats in the House Chamber, caked with shellac from years of usage.

In his long career in the halls of Congress, Kevin has personally met five Speakers of the House—Speaker Tom Foley, Speaker John Boehner, Speaker Tip O'Neill, Speaker Jim Wright, and Speaker Paul Ryan. Kevin has also reflected on the many lifelong friendships he has made in his office, including Timothy "Tim" Magruder and Vincent Plowden, who all motivated each other on the job. He has also made special mention of his favorite and current manager, John Garcia, who came into the shop and really heard their concerns, made the necessary changes and motivated the crew. He felt that Mr. Garcia really cared

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

about their conditions. Because of the encouragement of Mr. Garcia, he had a newfound desire to perform his job at a new level and credits Mr. Garcia for the changes in the finishing shop.

Kevin felt lucky to be able to attend the first Inauguration of President Barack Obama, an opportunity afforded him since the finishing shop worked behind the scenes on the stage preparation.

Another fond memory occurred in 2004 when an unexpected celebrity made an appearance on Capitol Hill—musical superstar Michael Jackson. He had been summoned to a hearing to call attention to the AIDS crisis. As he tells it, Kevin and some of his coworkers were standing outside near the Rayburn Building in anticipation of his arrival. They had almost given up when they saw his motorcade pull up right beside the wall near Rayburn. Michael Jackson got out of the car and walked directly toward Kevin, Tim Magruder and others, wearing his iconic glitter gloves and boots. Kevin was starstruck and barely able to speak, but Michael Jackson engaged them briefly, shook hands and then he was off. Coworkers later teased Kevin about being so moved in that moment.

Kevin has witnessed many different events in his 37-year career. With a heavy heart, he remembers being present on 9/11. He will never forget being outside and seeing the smoke from afar, which was the moment the Pentagon had been hit by a plane. But like others, he did not know the implication at the time of this terrorist attack and how it changed our lives forever. He was also present during the anthrax attack, when he and his crew were called in to clean all the furniture that was exposed to the anthrax.

Kevin was working when the earthquake hit Capitol Hill in 2011. He was in the office when the buildings, doors and floors started to sway. After the buildings were evacuated, he had to shelter on the corner for several hours until the building inspections were concluded. He was present when two Capitol Hill police officers were. And most recently, he was at work during the insurrection on January 6, 2021. So many memories, both good and bad, because of his long career with Congress.

In retirement, he plans to pursue some of his hobbies, like boxing on a punching bag, traveling abroad, catching up on movies, a particular interest, and volunteering with the homeless community. He will continue to attend the church in Baltimore where his cousin is the pastor, which he has attended since childhood. Kevin is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and daughter and including them in his retirement activities.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Kevin Harris for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

PASSING OF MR. JOHN HENRY
LYLES, III

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, in honoring the late John Henry Lyles, III,

we recognize and celebrate his life well-lived yet cut far too short.

“Jay,” as he was affectionately called by friends, was a Louisianan through and through. He was born and raised in the beautiful town of Minden in Louisiana’s Fourth Congressional District. He later made his way down to Baton Rouge where he graduated from LSU and earned a Master’s degree in Public Administration. Jay was passionate about his alma mater, LSU, and especially its football program.

Jay was known for always dedicating himself to those around him and accomplishing what he set his mind to. He loved his family, and all who knew him can testify to his exceptional character, drive, and kindness. He had many roles: friend, family man, entrepreneur, marketing guru, political consultant, and accomplished writer, to name a few.

Louisiana is home to some of the most talented, most charitable, and most outstanding people in the nation. Jay’s deep love for the state and his willingness to serve those around him are what he will be remembered most for. He was a good friend of mine—and of countless many others.

Jay will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.

GLEN KELLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glen Keller for his decades of service to the Colorado Westernaires organization.

For almost forty years, Glen has served as President of the Colorado Westernaires, a local non-profit which provides training in western riding, precision drills and horse care for local youth ranging from 9 to 19 years old. A lifelong resident of Colorado, Glen moved to Jefferson County in 1964. He started a law practice and in 1983 joined the Westernaires organization. During his decades of service, he has inspired and mentored thousands of young adults as they learn the values of the organization including leadership, self-respect and personal responsibility through horsemanship, western heritage and community belonging.

Previously, Glen served on the board of the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo which the Westernaires competes in every year.

In addition to his service to the Westernaires community, Glen is a loving husband and loving father. He has been married to his wife Liz for over 55 years, the proud father of two daughters, and a devoted grandfather to five grandchildren.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Glen and participate in Westernaires events on several occasions and I have been inspired by his contribution to the organization. I wish Glen all the best and send gratitude for his service to our community and to the State of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HARPER

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Thomas Harper, a Title 10 AGR Functional Area-59 qualified Major assigned to the Army National Guard G-5 as a Strategic Planner.

Mr. Harper began his service to our country at the age of 17 as an Infantryman in the Florida Army National Guard. He served 19 years in the Army at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels as a paratrooper, combat veteran, and qualified strategist. Mr. Harper served in units including infantry regiments, airborne special forces, the National Guard Bureau, the Department of the Army, the United States Special Operations Command, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He completed five operational tours in Afghanistan, Africa, and Central America.

Before returning to the Army National Guard G-5, Thomas Harper demonstrated his commitment to building and maintaining strong relationships between the Army and the legislative branch. Mr. Harper held the MILCON portfolio in the Readiness branch of the Programs Division at the Department of the Army’s Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison from 2018 to 2020. In his work, Mr. Harper worked closely with Members of Congress and interagency partners. He assisted Army Senior Leaders with preparation for Congressional hearings and traveled with Members and their staff, as well as Armed Services Committee professional staff members. Mr. Harper was also selected twice as the detail to the Department of Defense COVID-19 task force.

Mr. Harper’s achievements in his service to the United States have been recognized with countless awards. He is a two-time recipient of the Purple Heart Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for Valor. He received the French Cross of Military Valor at Division level (equivalent to the U.S. Silver Star) from the Ambassador of France for his combat actions in Afghanistan during December 2009. Mr. Harper is one of only seven Americans to receive this award since World War II. He has also been honored with the National Guard Association of the United States Patrick Henry Award, the National Guard Bureau’s Outstanding Performance Award, the Georgia Military College Outstanding Young Alumni Award, and the Georgia Military College George C. Marshall Award.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Harper is an outstanding Army officer and model citizen who has served with honor for nearly two decades. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

IN MEMORY OF ANN HANEY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of my friend, Ann Haney, a longtime community leader in Pulaski County, Kentucky